GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:536
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2003
STATUTORY POWERS TO ICAR
DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV;RADHA MOHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give any statutory powers to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a number of Agricultural Universities in the country are facing severe financial crunch and are unable to provide quality education as a result thereof;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to provide adequate funds to them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 536 REGAR `STATUTORY POWERS TO ICAR` TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH APRIL, 2003 IN LOK SABHA.

(a) No Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) There is a general financial crunch as indicated in the report of the Committee on Agriculture Education entitled `Education for Agriculture: Bridge to a Century of` Hope on the Farm Front`.The committee recommended an allocation of 1% equivalent of GDP both at the Central and State Level for Agricultural Research and Education, of which atleast 20% both at the Centre and State should be for the Agricultural Education. The IXth Plan allocation to ICAR amounted to about 0.3% of AGDP of which 11.7% was allocated for Agricultural Education. In addition Central Agriculture University (CAU) was supported 100% by ICARThe Committee felt that adequate grant is necessary for bringing about improvements in the standards of Agricultural Education. Despite financial constraints, all out efforts have been made to maintain the quality of` Agricultural Education by providing central support to State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and CAU from the ICAR for critical areas of education.

(d) & (e): The major responsibility to support Agricultural Education rests with the respective States.However, keeping in view, the necessity of ensuring quality of Agricultural Education, during the Xth Five Year Plan an outlay of Rs. 1322.65 crores was made for Agricultural Education by the ICAR, out of its proposed total outlay of` Rs. 16000 crores (including Rs.1000 crores as catch-up grant). However, ICAR received Xth Plan allocation of Rs. 5368 crores out of which it made an allocation of Rs. 559 crores (excluding Rs. 68 crores for the establishment of Jammu University) for Agricultural Education.In addition the CAU has been allocated Rs. 225 crores for the Xth plan.